

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01497 140714Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 HA-05 /102 W
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0436
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1497

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AU, KU, OKI
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN FONMIN VISIT TO KUWAIT: COMMENT ON TERRORISM
IN ISRAEL

1. ARRIVING FROM VISIT IN JORDAN, AUSTRIAN FONMIN PAHR
SPENT MARCH 11-12 IN KUWAIT, WAS RECEIVED BY THE AMIR AND
HEIR APPARENT/PRIMIN, AND REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED MIDDLE
EAST PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS WITH KUWAITI DEPPRIMIN/
FONMIN SHIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON
FIRST DAY OF THE VISIT, THE KUWAITI FONMIN REPORTEDLY
URGED THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS PLAY A MORE
ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS TO OVERCOME
ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE.

2. POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL. ASKED ABOUT HIS REACTION
TO THIS KUWAITI ENTREATY, DURING MARCH 12 NEWS CONFERENCE,
FONMIN PAHR REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ANY SETTLEMENT SHOULD
BE BASED UPON UN RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE, BUT THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD NO DIRECT
INFLUENCE ON ISRAEL. NEVERTHELESS, AUSTRIA HAD ADVISED
ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY THE RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING
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OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TO RESPECT LEGITIMATE PALESTIAN
RIGHTS, IN THE BELIEF THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RESTORE ALL
TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND SHOULD PERMIT THE
PALESTINIANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FATE. (ONE PAPER,
AL-WATAN, MARCH 13, REPORTED PAHR AS SAYING THAT AUSTRIA
IS NOT "WILLING" TO EXERT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO "COMPEL"
RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, BUT IS URGING ISRAEL

TO RESPECT UN RESOLUTIONS.) FONMIN PAHR ALSO REPORTEDLY REFERRED TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S PROPOSAL THAT THE WEST BANK BE PLACED UNDER PAN-ARAB AUTHORITY SUCH AS THE ARAB LEAGUE, NOTING THAT ISRAEL HAD REFJECTED THIS AND THAT ARAB REACTIONS WERE MIXED, OWING TO ISRAEL'S UNWILLINGNESS TO "RETURN ARAB TERRITORY."

3. SADAT INITIATIVE. PAHR IS REPORTED BY ONE PAPER AS HAVING EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE "APPARENT FAILURE" OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE (AL-WATAN, MARCH 13). ANOTHER PAPER SAID THAT PAHR EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVE WAS NOT FUTILE, SINCE IT CHANGED PERSPECTIVES IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE (AL QABAS, MARCH 13). OTHER PRESS COVERAGE SUGGESTS THAT PAHR'S VIEWS ON SADAT WERE NOT CLEARLY EXPRESSED NOR FULLY ELABORATED.

4. TERRORIST INCIDENT. REGARDING THE MARCH 11 TERRORIST ATTACK IN ISRAEL, FONMIN PAHR SPOKE AT VARIANCE WITH THE KUWAITI OFFICIAL PUBLIC APPROVAL OF THE INCIDENT. HE IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT, WHILE THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN THIS INCIDENT AND ISRAELI REFUSAL TO GRANT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AUSTRIA OPPOSES OPERATIONS AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS, AND "TERRORISM IS NOT A WAY TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT."

5. BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRESS REPORTS PAHR AS INDICATING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT AUSTRIA WILL RAISE THE LEVEL OF ITS REPRESENTATION IN KUWAIT FROM CONSULATE TO EMBASSY, TO BE HEADED BY RESIDENT CHARGE, WITH THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT CONTINUING TO BE ACCREDITED TO THE GOK. MAESTRONE

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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